



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
AZTEC

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State Engineer

100 Gossett Drive, Suite A
Aztec, New Mexico 87410

August 11, 2025

Ditch and City Pump Officials,

RE: Prepare for Shortages on the Animas River this Irrigation Season

To Whom It May Concern:

With this year's dry conditions and very low snowpack in the Animas watershed, we may be facing shortages for at least part of the remaining irrigation season. In past years, rather than going straight into a priority call, the ditches have worked together on a voluntary rotation — four groups, each taking three days OFF and nine days ON.

Starting August 3, flows at Cedar Hill have dropped under 200 cfs, and the lower (downstream) ditches are already being impacted by this shortage of water. We may get some relief if monsoonal rains arrive, but no significant precipitation is in the forecast. Even if we do get some rain and can pause the rotation, shortage conditions could return later in the summer.

OSE will provide assistance with determining when to start, pause, and call off the rotation, as well as managing diversion measurements and keeping the diversion website up to date.

To help ensure the rotation is fair for everyone, here are the suggested guidelines:

- When rotation begins, all municipalities should implement their Drought Management Plan (Stage 1).
- **City of Farmington** should be limited to the Penny Lane river pump only.
- **Farmers Irrigation District** should not divert water for the City of Farmington.
- **City of Aztec** should be limited to its river pump only.
- **Farmers Mutual Ditch** should be limited to its San Juan River diversion plus any remaining water available in the Animas River at its headgate.
- **Lower Animas Ditch** and **Aztec Ditch** should not divert water for the City of Aztec.
- All diversion dams should be in good working order (and not set too high) after peak runoff.

- All ditches must keep diversions at or below their adjudicated/permitted rates.
- Once rotation starts, a full cycle should be completed unless officially called off; the schedule will continue rolling until that time.
- On OFF days, ditches may divert from the river, but all water must be sluiced back to the river before passing the OSE measurement flume.

Please see the attached '**Animas River Ditch Rotation Schedule 2025.**' Representatives from ditches in Group 1 have already been notified and have agreed to turn off at or around 8 PM on Wednesday, August 13. These ditches will remain off for three days, and will start diverting water again on Saturday, August 16 starting at 8 M. Group 2 will go into rotation and turn off on Saturday, August 16 at 8PM, and so forth. Please see the schedule for specifics.

We can adjust the schedule as needed—this might include pausing between cycles or modifying off-periods. For example, if there are sufficient flows to satisfy everyone, the rotation could be paused early, and if shortages return, the rotation could restart with the next group. This rotation approach helps share the shortage fairly among all users rather than expecting the earlier groups to absorb most of it. In the meantime, we'll keep watching the weather and snowpack reports.

Participation in this rotation is voluntary and based on good faith. It is a preferred alternative to a priority call. However, if participation is insufficient, OSE will administer a priority call as needed.

Please be ready and make all necessary preparations to support and participate in this voluntary rotation and call us at (505) 334-4571 with any questions or suggestions.

Best regards,



Miles Juett, PG
San Juan Basin Watermaster
Water Rights Division – District V-Aztec

Enclosures

Cc: Aztec Reading File

Animas River Ditch Rotation Schedule 2025

Rotations may begin when the Animas River USGS Gauge @ Cedar Hill reaches a critical threshold of approximately 150 cfs OR the Animas @ Farmington gauge reaches approx. 20 cfs

Animas River Rotation Schedule 2025

	Participants	Days 1-3	Days 4-6	Days 7-9	Days 10-12
Group 1	Lower Animas	OFF	ON	ON	ON
	Eledge	OFF	ON	ON	ON
	Ranchmans Terrel	OFF	ON	ON	ON
Group 2	Twin Rocks	ON	OFF	ON	ON
	Cedar Hill	ON	OFF	ON	ON
	Farmers Irrigation	ON	OFF	ON	ON
	Kello Blancett	ON	OFF	ON	ON
	City of Farmington Pump 2	ON	OFF	ON	ON
Group 3	Ralston	ON	ON	OFF	ON
	Graves Atteberry	ON	ON	OFF	ON
	Stacey	ON	ON	OFF	ON
	Sargent	ON	ON	OFF	ON
	Farmington Echo	ON	ON	OFF	ON
Group 4	Aztec	ON	ON	ON	OFF
	Halford Independent	ON	ON	ON	OFF
	North Farmington	ON	ON	ON	OFF

Note: City of Farmington Pump 2 is the Penny Lane River Pump.

	<u>Turns off (8 pm)</u>	<u>2nd rotation (Turn off 8pm)</u>	<u>3rd rotation (Turn off 8pm)</u>	<u>4th rotation (Turn off 8pm)</u>
Group 1	Wednesday, August 13			
Group 2	Saturday, August 16			
Group 3	Tuesday, August 19			
Group 4	Friday, August 22			

All entities shall only divert their adjudicated maximum diversion rate.
Groups turn off for 3 days (72 hrs) then turn on for 9 days. If the river is still short, we continue another round of rotations.